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STATECRAFT IDEOLOGIES BY RAJA ALI HAJI IN *THAMARAT AL-MUHIMMAH*

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The thesis is a textual research on a classical manuscript, *Thamarat al-Muhimmah* that was written by the Raja Ali Haji bin Raja Haji Ahmad in 1276 H or 1857 A.D. The objectives of the study are categorized into three parts: (1) to formulate the writer's ideas on the concepts of leadership and statecraft; (2) evaluate the writer's notions on philosophies of justice and judiciary; and (3) interpret the writer's ideas on ethics of rulers and leaders. The aim of the study is to present the writer's concepts of statecraft based on the *Thamarat al-Muhimmah* text. Among the methodologies applied in this study is the subject determining method, data collection method, and content analysis

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method. In general, the thesis is divided into seven chapters. The first chapter is the Introduction that contains introduction, statement of problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, concepts of statecraft, the scopes and limitations of the study, research methods, and past research. The Second chapter focuses on the Biography of Raja Ali Haji, his bloodline, education, experience and the significance of his participation in intellectual and political activities in Riau-Lingga. Chapter Three describes the genres of statecraft, types of statecraft, and its influence on the Malay Sultanate. The chapter also recounts the problems related to the studied text, title, writing date, content, and reference manuscripts. The next chapter, Chapter Four briefly chronicles the concepts of state governance according to Islam, which is compared to the concepts of state governance in *Thamarat al-Muhimmah* – the structure of administration, the authoritative clout of the king, wazir and mufti. Meanwhile, Chapter Five details the issues of "Government Statutes and Court Rules", an explanation on the state's administration of law and judiciary institution. Discussion will start with concepts of justice from the perspective of Islam and its significance to the stability of a nation, which is compared to the law administration and judiciary institution as illustrated in *Thamarat al-Muhimmah*. The Sixth Chapter deliberates upon the concept of ethics according to the perspective of Islam and its connection with leadership qualities. The focus of discussion is on the impact of ethics on a ruler's role in performing his duties, and Raja Ali Haji's pattern of thought in founding the ethics philosophy. The final chapter focuses on Conclusion and Findings of the study. Generally, the *Thamarat al-Muhimmah* manuscript outlines the issues related to statecraft that fit the Islamic worldview. Hence, the invaluable information and guidance presented in *Thamarat al-*

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Muhimmah function as the guidelines for rulers and leaders to steadfastly hold on to their obligations as the Caliph of Allah in the world.

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